UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2015-2016
season of events

Thursdays at Noon

Oregano Percussion
Michelle Colton and Alejandro Céspedes
with guest, Emily Chiang, piano

Thursday, March 10, 2016
12:10 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

The Faculty of Music gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our presenting sponsors

Manulife mbna TD

Program

To Love is to Require Love — **Michelle Colton**

Poets of Andalucia — **Paul Elwood**

For My Mom — **Michelle Colton**

Emily Chiang, piano

Four Sketches for Sam — **Ben Whalund**

i. *Little Yellow Flowers*

Gymnopédie No. 1 — **Erik Satie**

Tango en Skai — **Roland Dyens**

Pair Up — **Myles Wright**

River Rock — **Michelle Colton**

Emily Chiang, piano

African Sun Walk — **Dan Moore**

Emily Chiang, piano

Program Notes

To Love is to Require Love (Michelle Colton) was inspired upon a philosophical reading of Søren Kierkegaard. The piece ponders the idea of whether the title is a true statement. Colton originally composed the piece for guitar and voice, and later adapted it to marimba, vibraphone, voice and percussion.

Poets of Andalucia (Paul Elwood) appears on Elwood's 2015 album, *Nice Folks* with The Invisible Ensemble, featuring Famoudou Don Moye. *Poets of Andalucia* refers to Jewish poets of Arabic Spain (10th and 13th centuries). Elwood is a composer and banjo player. He completed a residency in Spain and is currently a professor at the University of Northern Colorado.

For My Mom (Michelle Colton) was premiered by TorQ in the Christos Hatzis Composing for Percussion Class concert at the University of Toronto. The instrumentation includes two marimbas, vibraphone/piano and percussion, with the option of duo and trio versions. Colton wrote the piece as a gift to her mother, Sharon Colton. The piece shows the soft and delicate side of Sharon's personality as well as her upbeat and energetic side. Sharon's strength and positive outlook on life is a true inspiration.

Four Sketches for Sam (Ben Wahlund) is a duet for steel pan and marimba, written for Wahlund's black lab/springer spaniel mix dog and their experiences together. The movement performed today is the first of four movements, titled *Little Yellow Flowers*. This piece won 3rd place at the 2006 PAS Composition Contest. Ben Wahlund is a Chicago-based percussionist and educator.

Gymnopédie No. 1 (Erik Satie) is the first movement from *Three Gymnopédies*, one of Satie's best-known works, composed in the spring of 1888. Gymnopédie is the Greco-French term for Gymnopaidiai, a dancing and singing ritual for boys to perform during the feast of Apollo in Sparta.

Tango en Skai (Roland Dyens) began as an improvised work in 1978. Solo guitarist Roland Dyens played the piece for many years without revealing that he was the composer. It was not until 1985 that Dyens was finally convinced to publish the work. In his program notes, Dyens asks that the performers try to create a party atmosphere in which it was born without being unduly serious or overly compassionate, and to keep a smile deep inside. He believes the tango is a sensual dance whose rhythm must be constant from the opening to the final chord.

Pair Up (Myles Wright) is generally performed on trombone and marimba. The piece was created for Wright's friend, trombonist Steve Jenkins. For much of *Pair Up*, the marimba accompanies the trombone (steel pan) but there are moments when the roles are reversed. The instruments engage in a two-way dialogue, often exchanging melodies and rhythms in different registers. The mood varies throughout the piece, ranging from jazz influenced syncopation and harmonies to quieter, reflective moments.

River Rock (Michelle Colton) began as an improvisation on the marimba with two different styles "River" which resembles a Riverdance feel in 6/8, and "Rock" which resembles a rock groove in 4/4. The title has a double meaning to evoke images of a flowing river full of rocks, creating beautiful ripples and patterns in the water. Michelle's friend Todd Rosendahl began improvising on the piano to accompany the marimba in the early stages of the composition. Alejandro Céspedes later contributed to the structure and composition of *River Rock* through improvisations on hand percussion and experimentation with the structure. In 2013, a new version of *River Rock* was born with the assistance of Alejandro Céspedes on hand percussion and Adam Campbell on piano for Colton's album, *Unpredictable Nature*.

African Sun Walk (Dan Moore) was composed for Todd Rosendahl (marimba) and Michelle Colton (steel pan) and premiered at the University of Iowa in 2006. The instrumentation for today's performance includes piano instead of marimba, steel pan and an added percussion part. *African Sun Walk* can be heard on the 2007 album *Noise Brigade* recorded by the University of Iowa PanAmerican Steel Band.

Biographies

Oregano Percussion is a Toronto-based group that performs music from around the world. With a vast array of percussion instruments, they combine different styles from Latin to Caribbean music, songwriting pop, percussion chamber music, and world/jazz. Their spicy touch focuses on new and traditional tunes from various cultures. **Alejandro Céspedes** and **Michelle Colton** are artists and endorsers of Pearl Percussion & Adams Musical Instruments; Dream Cymbals & Gongs; Humes & Berg and The Steelpan Store. They both have an active freelance and teaching career in Toronto. Oregano Percussion performs throughout North America and recently presented clinics at schools in the U.S. and Cuba. They were Artists-in-Residence, presenting clinics and performances, at MusicFest Canada in 2015. This August, they will be guest artists with the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band. www.oreganopercussion.com

Canadian pianist **Emily Chiang** is a multi-faceted and versatile artist highly sought-after both in North America and in Asia. Born in Taiwan, she made her debut at the age of six, and has since been active as a concerto soloist and frequently as a solo pianist, performing locally in Toronto and internationally. In addition, her many ongoing collaborative relationships with instrumentalists and other pianists demonstrate her passionate commitment to chamber music. She is equally dedicated as a teacher, currently on the piano faculty at the University of Toronto.

Chiang has worked with many of the most celebrated and inspirational pianists and pedagogues, including Alexandra Munn, Alvin Chow, Arnaldo Cohen and Menahem Pressler.

Most recently Chiang studied with Marietta Orlov, completing a doctor of musical arts degree at the University of Toronto. Other studies have included completion of an artistic residency at the Banff Arts Centre, under the tutelage of Julian Martin.

Next on Thursdays at Noon...

March 17, 2016

Steven Philcox, Lydia Wong, Melisande Sinsoulier, and Lara Dodds-Eden play Franz Schubert's *Military March*, Op. 51, No. 1, Johannes Brahms' *Hungarian Dances and Waltzes* (Selections) and Mack Wilberg's *Carmen Fantasy* for 2 Pianos, 8 Hands.

--

March 24, 2016

Please note, this did not appear in the Notes brochure. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Mark Duggan, percussion
John Rudolph, percussion
Theresa Rudolph, viola

Performing pieces for viola, percussion, marimba and audio by Mark Duggan, including a world premiere, as well as works from composers Osvaldo Golljov and Eric Sammut.

--

March 31, 2016

Winner's Recital: Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song & Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying

@UofTMusic
music.utoronto.ca

Want to stay informed of our upcoming events?

Sign up for our bi-weekly
e-newsletter at bit.ly/UofTMusic-enews

The Faculty of Music is a member of Bloor St. Culture Corridor
bloorstculturecorridor.com

BLOOR ST.
CULTURE
CORRIDOR